(d) and (e) No, Sir.

Doubling of Indo-US trade

168. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to improve Indo-US relation further, both the countries have agreed to double the trade from the existing $ 20 bn in 2005 to $40 bn in 2008;

(b) if so, whether the US has decided to place an official of Federal Aviation to promote civil aviation, a fulltime Intellectual Property Right (IPR) official for promoting pharma research and a fulltime official from the Treasury Department to work with the RBI for helping and building a deeper financial market with India; and

(c) if so, to what extent these steps have helped India to increase trade with US?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) In the India-US Trade Policy Meeting held in November 2005 in New Delhi, co-chaired by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Kamal Nath and the then United States Trade Representative (USTR) Mr. Rob Portman, both sides agreed that India and US will aim at doubling bilateral trade to at least US $ 40 bn by 2008.

(b) and (c) The US Department of State is known to have created these new posts in India and there are reports that they will be filled up soon.

Processing units by Tea Board

169. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tea Board has decided to set up processing units in Assam to benefit small tea growers for better price;

(b) if so, whether such units are being set up in other tea growing States/places besides Assam;

(c) if so, which are those States/places; and